

DEPARTMENT OF ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE.

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Plant a Tree.

"Finds tongues in trees." "Be aye planting a tree. "Twill grow while you're sleeping."

He who plants a tree plants a hope,
Rootlets up through fibers blindly grope,

Leaves unfold into horizons free.

So man's life must climb

From the clods of time

Unto heaven sublime.

Canst thou prophesy, thou little tree,
What the glory of thy boughs shall be?

He who plants a tree

Plants a joy;

Plants a comfort that will never cloy,
Every day a fresh reality;

Beautiful and strong,

To whose shelter throng

Creatures blithe with song.

If thou couldst but know, thou happy tree,

Of the bliss that shall inhabit thee!

He who plants a tree

He plants peace.

Under its green curtains jargons cease,
Leaf and zephyr murmur soothingly;

Shadows soft with sleep

Down tired eyelids creep,

Balm of slumber deep.

Never hast thou dreamed, thou blessed tree

Of the benediction thou shalt be.

He who plants a tree

He plants youth;

Vigor won for centuries, in sooth;

Life of time, that hints eternity!

Boughs their strength uprear,

New shoots every year

On old growths appear.

Thou shalt teach the ages, sturdy tree,
Youth of soul is immortality.

He who plants a tree

He plants love;

Tents of coolness spreading out above
Wayfarers he may not live to see,

Gifts that grow are best;

Hands that bless are blest;

Plant!—life does the rest!

Heaven and earth help him who plants a tree,

And his work its own reward shall be.

(The above was sent to us by Mr. D. Redmond, formerly editor of the Florida Dispatch.

We think that our readers will appreciate and enjoy it. Ed.)

Notes from the Rural Grounds.

All that the Rural New Yorker says about the Chinese pinks is true and there is no annual that will give a more brilliant display for a few cents and a little trouble than these pinks. If you have never tried them, send for some seed and do so this year.

Handsome New Pinks.—The genus *Dianthus* contains many of our most ornamental and easily grown flowering plants. Our magnificent modern carnations can only be successfully grown under glass, but there is a host of hardy varieties of the greatest diversity and beauty. Great advances have been made in hybridizing various

species and garden strains, so we now have perpetual flowering strains of clove or grass pinks and Margaret carnations, double and single, in every shade of white, rose, crimson, scarlet and yellow, with the most intricate and beautiful markings, all coming into bloom in four to seven months from the seed. Most of these are delightfully fragrant. There is continual improvement in the Chinese pink, *D. Chinensis*, which is practically an annual in our climate, as the plants almost bloom themselves to death the first season, making only a feeble show the next year, if they should chance to survive the Winter. The various garden forms of the Chinese pink sold under the names of *Hedewigi*, *Laciniatus*, *Imperialis*, *Hybridus*, etc., are bewildering in number and diversity. We have heard of one enthusiast who got together over 50 types and varieties. The culture is of the simplest. Seeds are usually cheap, ranging from five to 25 cents a package, and may be sown indoors or in a fine seed bed in the garden in May. When large enough the plants should be set in well-enriched soil about a foot apart each way. The bloom is constant and brilliant as soon as a little growth is made, and few plants better repay the very moderate care needed. The only feature lacking is fragrance, which is very slight in this section. A very charming novelty in Chinese pinks, engraved from a dried flower grown in Germany is shown in Fig. 121, page 294. It originated in Japan and is first sent out this season under the name of *Dianthus laciniatus mirabilis* or *Marvelous pink*. The fresh blooms are said to reach three to four inches in diameter, on long, stiff stems. The petals, as seen in the illustration, are deeply cut into fine strips or thread-like fringes which are twisted in all directions. The colors range from white to rose and purple-red, with dark zones. Seeds are offered by several dealers for 20 cents a packet.

Continuing on the subject the writer next tells about Sweet Williams. They will bloom all Winter in our climate.

Sweet William Hybrids.—The Sweet William, *Dianthus barbatus*, is one of the most prized of hardy garden flowers, having been cultivated from the earliest times. It is sturdy and vigorous, holding its own for several years even in our trying climate, and perpetuating itself by volunteer seedlings wherever allowed. It is a native of Central Europe, but everywhere esteemed for its massive trusses of brilliant and fragrant blooms. Sweet Williams have been wonderfully improved by long selection. Some of the newer strains produce flowers of great size, regular finish and surprising beauty of coloring. The strains sold as *Auricula* flowered are perhaps most popular. The individual blooms are large, smooth-edged and of various colors, all showing a clear white eye or center. Other types have large fringed flowers in a great diversity of shades and intricate markings. The double-flowered varieties are large and showy, but less elegant than the best of the single forms. All are delightfully fragrant and easily grown from seeds or divisions, if it is desired to perpetuate a particular variety. Seeds are plentiful and cheap, the best costing not more than 10 cents a packet.



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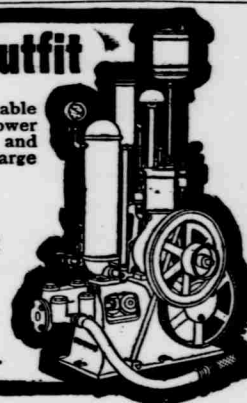
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They may be sown outside in a seed bed any time from early spring until August, and the plants set a foot apart in the blooming bed or border as soon as they are large enough to handle. A slight protection to prevent heavy frost during winter is always an advantage, though young plants are quite reliably hardy. They will bloom magnificently the succeeding year, and may be preserved several seasons if the bloom trusses are cut as they fade to prevent exhaustion from profuse seeding. Many hybrids have been grown between the Sweet William and other *Dianthus* species. One of the first intentionally-produced plant hybrids recorded was the result of crossing one of the early carnations and the Sweet William. This hybrid had considerable beauty, and has been frequently reproduced, but soon disappears from cultivation. Other hybrids with *D. alpinus* and *D. superbus* are more or less grown in Europe as hardy border plants, but are scarcely known in the American plant trade. *Dianthus latifolius* is usually regarded as a garden hybrid of Sweet William. It is intermediate in habit between this species and the Chinese pink. The flowers are large, generally double or semi-double, arranged in rather loose trusses or panicles and run largely to deep purple and crimson colors, though many shades are to be found in every lot of seedlings. It is a handsome border plant, the crimson varieties making a vivid display. All blooms of *D. latifolius* we have examined have been without perceptible fragrance. The second and third generations from seed of a hybrid between the Sweet William and Chinese pink, raised on the Rural Grounds, closely resembles *D. latifolius*, through retaining some fragrance, but the original plant was

quite distinct from either of its parents and from its seedlings. The tendency of these seedlings, after passing through the stage resembling *Latifolius* is to revert to the parent types in about equal proportion. The plants are exceedingly vigorous and free-blooming, living three or four years under the most ordinary conditions of culture.

Fig. 123, page 294, is a representation of blooms of our newest hybrid taken in late October, after the plants had been exposed to repeated sharp freezes. It is one of many plants grown from a series of crosses made between carefully selected Sweet Williams and Chinese pinks of the *Laciniatus* type. The resulting seeds, sown in March, produced flowers in early July, and the plants continued veritable bouquets of bloom until stopped by Winter. They grew 12 to 16 inches high, were very compact and neat in form, and were at all times covered with fragrant blooms varying in color from white with faint blush zones, to deep crimson, intricately marked and variegated. There was no perceptible difference in growth or bloom between plants raised from seeds of Sweet William or Chinese pink, each pollinated by the other, though both lots were kept separate for comparison. The foliage is intermediate, but resembles most the Sweet William. Taken altogether these were the handsomest hardy pinks we have ever grown. The first generation plants have survived the Winter with no protection and appear in perfect condition. In their present state they are immeasurably superior to *D. latifolius*, and it will be interesting to note if they can be perpetuated from seed, which is very sparingly produced, or whether they must pass